

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selectively increasing glutamate and/or aspartate release in a central nervous system locus in a site-specific manner comprising the steps of:

selecting a central nervous system locus; and

providing prolonged release of thyrotropin-releasing hormone *in situ* at the central nervous system locus over a period of time by placing at least one non-spherical microstructure into the central nervous system locus, wherein the microstructure comprises 1 - 90% thyrotropin-releasing hormone and the remainder a biodegradable matrix.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1 ~~wherein the providing step includes placing at least one non-spherical microstructure into the central nervous system locus, wherein the microstructure comprises thyrotropin-releasing hormone and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and~~ wherein the microstructure has a size and shape sufficient to prevent dispersion of the microstructure from the central nervous system locus.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 2 1, wherein the central nervous system locus is a specific location selected from the brain or spinal cord, and wherein the placing step includes implanting the microstructure stereotaxically into the central nervous system locus.

4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the implanting step includes inserting a cannula into the central nervous system locus and delivering the microstructure through the cannula to the central nervous system locus.

5. (New) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the non-spherical microstructure comprises 1-60% thyrotropin-releasing hormone and the remainder a biodegradable matrix.

6. (New) A method as defined in claim 5, wherein the non-spherical microstructure comprises 1-10% thyrotropin-releasing hormone and the remainder a biodegradable matrix.